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CHIN 101.01: Elementary Chinese I

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Department of World Languages and Literatures

Chinese 101 - Elementary Chinese

Fall Semester 2020

Syllabus

Instructors: Dr. Cao Zhen
Office: LA 438
Phone: 243-2791
Email: zhen.cao@mso.umt.edu
Office hours: T & TH: 1pm -2pm
Class room: Don Andersen Hall RM 005
Class meetings: M-F 12 noon to 12:50pm

COVID-19 Mitigation and Best Practices Don Anderson Hall UM

PLEASE WEAR A MASK & PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING ON Campus



The wrong way

The right way

- Don't come inside if you're not feeling well
- Don't come inside until just before your class is to begin
- Enter through West doors (front doors) only
- Mask up before entry and stay masked when in the building
- West stairwell is for going up only
- East stairwell is for going down only
- Stay right in the hallways

- Two people to a bathroom only
- One person in the elevator at a time (please don't use the elevator unless you need it)
- Wipe down your classroom space when you enter
- Sit in the same place in your classroom each meeting
- Wipe down your classroom space as you leave
- Don't linger in the classrooms or in the hallways
- Don't bunch up before or after class
- Maintain social distance always
- No eating or drinking in the building

If you are not comfortable/cannot wear a face covering, talk to your professor about remote options. You will not be allowed in Anderson Hall without a mask. Please be considerate of your classmates, your professors and your staff. Maintain healthy practices when you are not on campus to avoid exposing others to COVID-19.

General Introduction:

Elementary Chinese is designed for people with no prior knowledge of the language and is not open to students from Chinese-speaking countries. The dialect taught is Mandarin, known in China as putonghua ("the standard language") and in Taiwan as guoyu ("the national language.") This is a five-credit course, with five hours of classes per week. You are also required to spend two hours per week in the Language Laboratory or home working with audio materials for the current lesson in the textbook.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Recognizing 80 Chinese radicals and understanding their inherent meanings.
2. memorizing and reconstructing 210 new characters and 300 words and phrases.
3. Understanding of the basic rationale of the character composition
4. Understanding of the basic rationale of the word construction.
5. Developing basic lexical control in daily routine interaction, and also in discussion on simple and concrete topics such as personal and family background, school life, and personal interest.
6. Acquisition of Knowledge and understanding aspects of the Chinese cultures involved in the situational dialogues and texts.

Objectives of the course:

Our goal in first year is to develop beginning-level proficiency in speaking and understanding Chinese, as well as make progress with learning how to read and write the language. By the end of the semester you should be able to converse on a variety of simple topics related to daily life and know how to read and write some 300 characters. A further objective will be to introduce you to elements of traditional and contemporary Chinese society through the language. This will be done informally and not be part of the evaluation process.

Learning Chinese poses more challenges than most languages, because of the writing system, the general absence of loan and cognate words, and because Chinese is a tonal language. To succeed, you need to be motivated and have good study habits: above all, you must be able to work consistently and on a daily basis rather than in fits and starts. A fair amount of rote learning and memorization is required, especially for learning the characters. Outside of class time you should plan on spending 60-75 minutes per day on homework, which will include preparation and review. This is not a good course for anyone with an extremely heavy credit load or many extra time commitments.

Besides first- through second-year Chinese, we offer various courses in Chinese literature and culture each semester. These are taught in English and nearly all have no prerequisites or language requirement. A minor in Chinese is offered, consisting of 24 language credits (four semesters of Chinese) and nine literature/culture credits. Please see us for further information if you have any questions. Note that courses counting toward the minor may not be taken on a CR/NC basis.

Opportunities for continuing your study of Chinese in China or Taiwan are plentiful and are relatively easy to arrange. Most Chinese language programs in these countries will admit you at any stage of your learning experience and most offer summer and January courses as well as their regular year-long and degree programs. Anyone planning on a career using Chinese should spend a year or two in China or Taiwan, preferably enrolled full-time in language courses. The strategy of acquiring proficiency by going to China/Taiwan and teaching English is less than ideal, because you will likely end up speaking more English than Chinese.

If you plan to go on to second- or third-year Chinese, you should do so immediately after your first year. Students who interrupt their studies usually find they have forgotten most of their Chinese by the time they re-enter the program.

Course Procedures, Evaluation and Expectations:

We start with an introduction to the Chinese language, briefly covering its origins, history, and some general characteristics. From there, we move to foundation work, focusing on pronunciation, the four tones, and the pinyin system for romanizing Chinese. In the second week we begin with the individual numbered lessons in the textbook, covering a lesson roughly every week and a half.

1. Tests. These will typically be held after each lesson, and the score for every test, except your lowest one, counts toward your final grade. Note that each test covers not just the most recent lesson but earlier material as well, so please keep up with your reviewing! The occasional test may be a take-home, but the majority will be in-class, lasting the entire 50 minutes. There will be a final examination but no mid-term. Note that the final exam is on the entire semester's work. Makeups are not permitted unless you have a note from Student Health Services or your physician. For reasons of privacy, the note does not have to state the nature of your illness. All assigned homework must be completed and given to your instructor by the specified deadline. Late work will only be accepted in special circumstances and when permission has been granted in advance.

2. Attendance is taken daily and you are expected to attend all classes. Anyone absent five times will be given a failing grade for the course. Classes begin at exactly on the hour — we take a dim view of lateness, so please make sure you are always on time. If before Chinese you have another class at some distant part of the campus, making punctuality a problem, let us know. Unexcused excessive late arrivals will be counted as absences.

3. Grades. Your overall course grade will be calculated according to the following percentages:

Tests.....	40%
Quizzes & home work	15%
Class participation and performance	15%
Final Examination.....	30%

Class Text:

Integrated Chinese (Level 1 Part 1, Fourth Edition), published by Cheng & Tsui Co., Boston. Traditional Character edition. # vols. ---**Textbook**, **Workbook**, and **Character Workbook**. This series is used by many of the top Chinese programs in the United States. There are various helpful websites and electronic resources pertaining to this textbook and you are encouraged to make use of these: more on this later.

Class Schedule

1. Week of Wednesday, August 19th:

Introduction to the Chinese language. Foundation work and exercises on tones, pronunciation, the pinyin romanization system, and characters.

2. Week of Monday, August 24th

Foundation work continued.

Wednesday Lesson 1

3. Week of Monday, August 31st

Lesson 1 continued.

Tuesday Test 1 (on Lesson 1)

Wednesday Lesson 2

4. Week of Monday, Sept. 7th

(No class Monday, Labor Day)

Lesson 2 continued

5. Week of Monday, September 14th

Monday Test 2 (Lesson 2)

Tuesday Lesson 3

6. Week of Monday, September 21st

Lesson 3 continued

Friday Test 3 (Lesson 3)

7. Week of Monday, September 28th

Lesson 4

Oct. 1st, Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Cake Day)

8. Week of Monday, October 5th

Lesson 4 continued

Thursday Test 4 (Lesson 4)

Friday TBA

9. Week of Monday, October 12th

Lesson 5

10. Week of Monday, October 19th,

Lesson 5 continued

- Thursday Test 5 (Lesson 5)
Friday TBA
11. Week of Monday, October 26th
Lesson 6
12. Week of Monday, November 2nd
Lesson 6 continued
Tuesday-election day, no class
Friday Test 6 (Lesson 6)
13. Week of Monday, November 9th
Lesson 7
Wednesday Veterans Day, no class
14. Week of Monday, November 16th
Lesson 7 Continued

Final Exam: 8:00am-10:00am Monday November 23rd

NOTE: University regulations strictly forbid giving exams prior to exam week, so please take this into account when making any travel plans, plane reservations, etc.

Further Important Information:

1. This course uses pluses and minuses in its grading. The lowest credit-receiving grade is D minus, the highest possible course grade a straight A, not A+.
2. Note that you need to select the traditional grading option if you are planning to have this course count toward fulfillment of the Chinese Minor and/or General Education requirements.
3. Auditors: Anyone auditing the class must formally enroll as an auditor.
4. Anyone with a learning or medical disability and in need of special arrangements must inform us of this fact at the beginning of the course. People with such disabilities must provide documentary proof of their status.